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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/674,347	10/30/2000	Jacob Cornelis Van Der Wal	PTT-106(4025	6895
7265	7590	09/21/2005	EXAMINER	
MICHAELSON AND WALLACE PARKWAY 109 OFFICE CENTER 328 NEWMAN SPRINGS RD P O BOX 8489 RED BANK, NJ 07701			NG, CHRISTINE Y	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2663	
DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

(X)

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/674,347	VAN DER WAL ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Christine Ng	2663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 7-13 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 7-13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 29 June 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 7, 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,819,672 to Corneliusen.

Referring to claim 7, Corneliusen discloses a system for charging, in a packet based telecommunication network, the packet load per connection (VPI/VCI), characterized by a measuring device (Figure 7, second timer in “calculate time” block) for measuring the time period (T_{tot}) between a set number (m) of received or transmitted packets belonging to the same connection (VPI/VCI). Second timer measures T_{tot} , which is the time between the arrival of the first packet n=1 to the last packet n=m.

Refer to Column 3, lines 27-36 and lines 48-60; and Column 4, lines 15-24.

Referring to claim 8, Corneliusen discloses that the system is characterized by a calculation device (Figure 7, second timer in “calculate time” block) for calculating the number (m) of packets per said period of time (T_{tot}) and supplying that calculation result (m/T_{tot}) to a billing system (Figure 1, charging manager). Refer to Column 1, lines 43-46; Column 3, lines 27-36 and lines 48-60; and Column 4, lines 15-24.

Referring to claim 11, Corneliusen discloses an aggregation device (Figure 7, "current volume and time" block) for aggregating the calculation result (m/T_{tot}) and passing on the aggregated result (m/T_{tot}) to the billing system (Figure 1, charging manager). "The value of the second timer (T_{tot}) is provided when the metering equipments gets a request for the current duration for the connection" (Column 3, lines 45-47). The "current volume and time" block reports the aggregated (current) m/T_{tot} value to the charging meter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,819,672 to Corneliusen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,338,046 to Saari et al.

Referring to claims 9 and 10, Corneliusen does not disclose system packets which comprise an indication of the capacity or priority requested by the user (claim 9) or assigned by the telecommunication system (claim 10), characterized by a detection device for reading out the indication out of the system packets and transferring that indication to the billing system.

Saari et al disclose in Figure 2 system packets (billing cell 31) which comprise an indication (connection information 38) of the capacity or priority requested by the user or assigned by the telecommunication system, characterized by a detection device (node 24) for reading out the indication (connection information 38) out of the system packets (billing cell 31) and transferring that indication to the billing system (access network billing system; Figure 3, Element 40). The connection information 38 includes a connection type field 31 that specifies service parameters such as maximum peak rate, acceptable cell loss ratio, the service class used (CBR, VBR, UBR or ABR) or other ATM traffic parameters. Refer to Column 5, line 60 to Column 6, line 2. A node 24 receives the billing cell 31, detects the connection information 38 and then copies the connection information 38 from the billing cell 31 to the billing unit 34. The billing unit 34 then transfers the charging information to a common billing system (Figure 3, Element 40). Refer to Column 5, lines 16-27 and Column 6, lines 26-28. The connection information 38 in billing cell 31 describes the general level of service expected (assigned by the telecommunication system, claim 10) or required (requested by the user, claim 9) by a network user when using a particular connection. Refer to Column 5, lines 56-60. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include system packets which comprise an indication of the capacity or priority requested by the user (claim 9) or assigned by the telecommunication system (claim 10), characterized by a detection device for reading out the indication out of the system packets and transferring that indication to the billing system; the motivation being that this allows the user or the telecommunication system

to assign certain traffic parameters to the connection, depending on the type of traffic being transmitted, and for different traffic parameters to be charged differently.

Referring to claims 12 and 13, Corneliusen does not disclose an aggregation device for aggregating the capacity or priority indications and passing on the aggregated indications to the billing system.

Saari et al disclose in Figure 3 an aggregation device (billing units 34a-34d) along a path of nodes 24a-24d from a source 26a to a destination 26b for aggregating the capacity or priority indications (connection information; Figure 2, Element 38) and passing on the aggregated indications to the billing system (node 40). A first billing unit 34a generates charging information using the billing cell information it received at a first node 24a and a charging strategy. The first billing unit 34a then passes the updated billing cell to a second billing unit 34b which then generates charging information based on the billing cell contents and a different charging strategy. This is repeated for billing units 34c and 34d. "After acquiring the relevant billing information from each of the billing units 34a-34d associated with each of the nodes 24a-24d defining the connections between the users 26a and 26b, the network billing system 40 computes the total cost for transmitting the data between source and destination locations 26a, 26b" (Column 7, lines 19-26). Refer to Column 6, line 49 to Column 7, line 26. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include an aggregation device for aggregating the capacity or priority indications and passing on the aggregated indications to the billing system; the motivation being that this allows for charging a connection that spans over a series of

nodes that operate under different charging strategies. Charging information can be accumulated from one node to the next node to allow for accurate billing of the full connection.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed June 29, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Referring to the argument of claim 7 that "m" is not known beforehand and cannot be a set number (N) of packets (page 14, line 7 to page 15, line 4), Corneliusen discloses that T_{tot} measures the time period of n packets, where n = 1 to m. Refer to Column 3, lines 50-60. Therefore, the value of "n" reads on "the set number (N) of received or transmitted packets belonging to the same connection" (claim 7, lines 4-6), since the value of "n" is predetermined to equal 1 to m, where m is the number of arrived packets.

Referring to the argument of claim 8 that the ratio of volume and time is not calculated (page 15, line 5 to page 16, line 9), Corneliusen discloses that the number of packets (m) per period of time (T_{tot}) is determined. Column 3, lines 50-60. The value of "m" reads on "the number of packets per said period of time (t)" (claim 8, lines 3-4), since the value of "m" is the number of the packets transmitted during T_{tot} .

Referring to the argument of claim 11 (page 16, lines 10-15), refer to the argument of claim 7 and claim 8.

Referring to the argument of claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 (page 17, lines 1-6), refer to the argument of claim 7 and claim 8.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christine Ng whose telephone number is (571) 272-3124. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F; 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on (571) 272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

C. Ng CW
September 9, 2005


RICKY NGO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
